

WEST PLAZA

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Next general meeting will be at

The Annual WPNA Picnic

It's on Saturday, May 12th in Westwood Park. Come and join us for food and fun

Bring your bulky and yard trash to the dumpsters on Wyoming near 48th Street.
Remember, these fill up quickly, so come early – we start collecting at 8 a.m.

Join us about noon at the shelter for the picnic and a brief meeting. Bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. The drinks and hot dogs are provided by the Association.

Kids can enjoy the Moon Walk and a piñata again.

The ball diamond has been reserved, so bring your balls/bats/gloves for a game.

A MAST ambulance and fire truck will stop by to visit.

And we will have free flowers for everyone to take home.

Garage Sale

The neighborhood garage sale will be Saturday, June 9th. Again this year we would like to provide, for our shoppers, addresses of the houses participating; list a few of the items for sale at each house; and include a map showing the locations of sales. This went over very well last year, the first time we tried it.

The night before the sale, Association members will pass out the lists to participating houses. We hope that this will increase sales and make shopping fun for everyone. If you would like to be included, please call Melinda Michael at 931-1594 evenings, or e-mail Melinda at mmichael@geaf.com, by Wednesday, June 6th. Leave your address and list some of the items you plan to have for sale.

Garage Sale Signs. If you still have a WPNA garage sale sign, please return it to the side door of 1510 W 45th Street. We would like to re-distribute these to residents that participate in this year's garage sale.

West Plaza Neighborhood Association Newsletter
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Responses to WPNA residents

The Board received a letter recently. Since it was not signed, we couldn't reply to the individual. But the issues that were raised are worth a response. The letter reads:

To whom it may concern.

Can something be done about the sidewalks on 44 & Genesee? they are in horrible shape. Also, if there is an association why dont you enforce the property owners to fix up yards and houses.

How can anyone let property look this bad. it is up to the Neighbor association to do something about this.

Thank you
A concerned owner

The West Plaza Neighborhood Association is a voluntary organization. Unlike some Homeowner Associations, we do not have the authority to force any property owner to perform maintenance or comply with any appearance standards. But we can (and do) help area residents with these concerns.

Sidewalk repairs. Most sidewalks and curbs are the responsibility of the property owner. The City's web site says:

To report a dangerous sidewalk, call (816) 274-1468. The city's Public Works Department dispatcher will have an inspector verify the hazard, and if the sidewalk is dangerous, the property owner will be required to repair it. If the city has to contract for the repairs, the owner will pay a special assessment to cover the cost of the repairs.

One exception is the part of the curb and sidewalk located on corner radii within the intersection as well as any drainage inlet repairs or pavement work to a public street. Public funds pay for repair or replacement of these.

The Association can help apply for a grant that will pay up to 20% of the cost of replacement or repair. The homeowners would be responsible for the remaining 80%. In order to get such a grant...

1. Petitions must be signed in a block-by-block manner.
2. There must be at least 50% in favor, for it even to be considered.
3. There will be a review process to determine if the work will be done or not.
4. The City will give each block an estimate to do the work (80/20 split)
5. If accepted we are looking at having the work done in the 2002-2003 round of grants.

Neighbors can do the work themselves by:

1. Obtaining a permit from the City
2. Following city standards
3. Contacting the City for an inspection before the concrete pour

If a tree has caused the sidewalk problem, we can call the Parks and Recreation Department to come look at the tree. If necessary, they will remove the tree at no cost, but the City will then charge for the repair work of the sidewalk

Property appearance. Any citizen can report concerns about deficient property or apparent code violations to the City Codes Administration (816-513-1500). The Association also can (and does) report such information. The Association shares the concerns with the property owner who appears to be in violation of City ordinances before reporting the problem to the City.

!!!Recycle!!!

27th Terrace and McGee
(Near Hallmark)
Saturdays and Sundays
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Graffiti

West Plaza has recently experienced several incidents of graffiti that appear to be gang related. This is a potentially serious situation, because a neighborhood that ignores graffiti is sending a message that indicates apathy or intimidation.

If you notice any graffiti, first call the Gang Squad of the Kansas City, MO Police Department at (816) 482-8235. They can photograph and document it.

To get the graffiti cleaned up, call the Traffic Operations Section at (816) 513-2777 to make a request.

Childcare during meetings

One idea that was brought up at the most recent Board meeting was the possibility of providing some kind of childcare during the general neighborhood meetings. We especially want to encourage younger couples to join the WPNA and participate, and it was thought that this might help.

Would you be willing to watch the children part of a meeting, say, 15 minutes?

If you have suggestions relating to the childcare idea, contact Boyd Williston (816-931-0194, e-mail boydwilliston@yahoo.com).

Meet A WP Neighbor

Ed Jenkins is a familiar sight around the neighborhood. He mows many yards within WP. Ed is a big help during the clean sweep. He sometimes goes and picks up yard waste for someone who does not have a convenient way to get it to the neighborhood dumpster. Ed has many helpful ideas and suggestions during the general meetings.

An avid plant enthusiast, **John Watterson** is active in the Kansas City Gardeners of America. John often puts in long hours at the KC GOA plant sale. John enjoys plants, and recently bought 10 new roses to put out at his

WPNA Business Members

STATE LINE & 45TH STREET ANTIQUE DEALERS

4501 Genessee
816-561-4501

CATHY'S

CLIP & CURL SALON

4301 Wyoming
816-561-2331

COPYMATE PRINT CENTER

4312 Terrace
816-931-4122

CUMMINGS CORNER ANTIQUES

1703 W. 45th Street
753-5353

DAVID ALLEN STATE FARM INSURANCE

1414 W 47th Street
753-4334

FINAL DRAFT SECRETARIAL SERVICE

4401 Genessee
816-931-2276

HAIR STYLE

4500 Bell
816-531-4545

STEPHAN J GLENTZER ENTERPRISES

4509 Genessee
531-3749

KATE'S CANINE RESORT

207 W 31ST
816-753-4188

SUNSHINE FLOWERS

4509 Rainbow Blvd.
913-384-5034

WESTPORT LAUNDROMAT

1409 Westport Road
816-531-8889

JENNINGS TREE CARE

4505 State Line
816-931-3399

GARY JENKINS ATTORNEY AT LAW

204 W Linwood
816-931-3535

WESTPORT OIL AND LUBE

1112 Westport Road
931-6995

house. He is a friendly conservationist. His picture appeared in the KC Star, carrying home a Christmas tree, so as not to scratch the car roof. He will be 90 May 30th.

WHO Tool Rental Program

Save Your WPNA Newsletter Envelope

Westside Housing Organization (WHO), 919 W 24th, KC, MO 64108, phone 816-421-8048, has a tool rental program. To participate, you must have proof of membership in WPNA. Jerry Shechter, of WHO, will accept your WPNA newsletter envelope, showing your name and address and current year, as proof for the tool rental program.

Jerry hopes to be at the picnic and/or have literature available about the program. If you have questions, contact Jerry by phone or at whojer@crn.org. Or check with Shirley Williston by phone, 816-931-019 or e-mail her at shirleywilliston@yahoo.com.

Westwood Park Update

Those of you that did not attend the last general membership meeting missed a lively discussion regarding the dogs that are allowed to run loose in the park and are not being cleaned up after.

Points from the meeting:

- It is against the law to have your dog off leash
- It is against the law not to pick up after your dog
- Should the Association pay off-duty police to issue citations to those breaking the law?
- Are there other steps that could/should be taken first?
- Should we provide bags and trash containers in the park to make it easier to pick-up after the dogs.
- Should we fence off a part of the park for dogs?
- Should we fence of the playground (once the new equipment is installed) to provide a safe, clean area for the children to play?
- Dogs need a chance to run and our urban neighborhood has small yards that do not provide the opportunity for exercise.
- Is there a way to provide times of the day when it is okay to have dogs off-leash.

The following day Melinda Michael, the Association president, sent a message to Councilman Rowland’s assistant, Dana, thanking her for arranging for his visit. Melinda proceeded to fill her in on our “dog discussion” and requested comments or suggestions.

Dana forwarded the e-mail to Steve Lampone, Director of Operations, Parks and Recreation. Steve and Melinda had many discussions concerning the situation that we face, as do many of the other neighborhood parks in the urban core. Steve hopes that the off-leash dog area being built at Penn Valley will help the situation. However, he is also frustrated with the fact that laws that are being broken, and they need to be enforced. He did like the idea of providing bags for dog waste, and has agreed to install the dispensers and trashcans within the park for us.

Steve did not like the idea of fencing off parts of Westwood Park, but thinks the idea of providing times when having a dog off-leash would be permissible was very good, and he suggested to Councilman Rowland that the City look into it.

Melinda has requested about \$400 from the Self-help Fund to purchase 3 dog bag dispensers for Westwood Park. We believe that this has been approved.

Join Your Neighbors in the WPNA

Please fill out the information below and return along with your check to:
West Plaza Neighborhood Association ~ P.O. Box 32826 ~ Kansas City, MO 64171-7826

New Renewal Household (\$12) Senior (\$7) Business (\$25)

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____

I would like to help the neighborhood with:

Picnic Property Maintenance/Zoning

Yard Sale Neighborhood clean-up

Crime prevention Distribute newsletter

Refreshments for meetings

(May 2001 Newsletter)